



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q62474

#9B/BM  
3-4-03

Carlos PEDRIDO, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/745,414

Group Art Unit: 1731

Confirmation No.: 9890

Examiner: John M. HOFFMAN

Filed: December 26, 2000

For: PREFORM INLET ARRANGEMENT FOR AN OPTICAL FIBER DRAWING FURNACE, A FURNACE PROVIDED WITH THAT KIND OF INLET ARRANGEMENT, AND A PREFORM EQUIPPED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THAT INLET ARRANGEMENT

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2002, please amend the above identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

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Claim 1. (Amended) An inlet arrangement for inserting a preform into a furnace for drawing a fiber, which furnace is of the type including an enclosure at the top of which there is an opening to allow insertion of the preform which moves vertically downwards in translation during fiber drawing; said inlet arrangement comprising both an injector situated at the level of the preform inlet opening to inject inert gas onto the perimeter of the preform to fill the enclosure